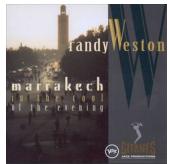


Randy Weston - Marrakech In The Cool Of The Evening (1994)

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Randy Weston - Marrakech In The Cool Of The Evening (1994)



1. *In The Cool Of The Evening* (3:42) 2. *Portrait of Billie Holiday* (4:37) 3. *Two Different Ways to Play the Blues* (5:36) 4. *Portrait of Dizzy: A Night in Tunisia...* (7:32) 5. *Lisa Lovely* (3:22) 6. *Uli Shrine* (4:25) 7. *Blues for Elma Lewis* (3:51) 8. *Ballad for T* (4:51) 9. *Valse Triste Valse* (4:04) 10. *Where?* (6:28) 11. *Let's Climb a Hill* (3:37) 12. *The Jitterbug Waltz* (5:12) 13. *Blues for Five Reasons* (6:06) 14. *Lotus Blossom* (6:14) Randy Weston – piano

Over the course of his career, Randy Weston has occasionally revisited the solo piano context. Here, opening with Nat "King" Cole's "In the Cool of the Evening," Weston thoughtfully mixes his own compositions with telling covers (Billy Strayhorn, Dizzy Gillespie, and Fats Waller).

Alone at a piano, it's evident how expansive and orchestrally-oriented Weston's musical thinking is; he utilizes beautiful density and open atmospherics with equal aplomb, and all with gorgeous melodicism. The album was digitally recorded live to 2-track in the ballroom of the La Mamounia Hotel in Marrakech, Morocco, a perfect setting for Weston, preserving both the cool and broad sound of the large room and the warmth of his piano playing. ---Rovi

This is a nice solo album from Weston's renaissance in the 1990s. I am a huge fan of his, especially the group projects (usually under the title African Rhythms). Weston is an utterly distinctive pianist, although I have to admit that a long solo album (from anyone) is a little tough to get through. But there is certainly plenty of outstanding stuff here, with most of the compositions (as expected) by Weston, including some rarities. The blues numbers--one of his great strengths--are memorable. --- Michael D. Bohnert, amazon.com

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